

or attempted destruction of a place of worship through the use of fire or an explosive. The purpose of this amendment is to conform the penalty provisions of section 247 with the penalty provisions of the general Federal arson statute, Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(i). Under current law, if a person burns down a place of religious worship (with no injury resulting), and is prosecuted under section 247, the maximum possible penalty is 10 years. However, if a person burns down an apartment building, and is prosecuted under the Federal arson statute, the maximum possible penalty is 20 years. H.R. 3525 amends section 247 to conform the penalty provisions with the penalty provisions of section 844(i). H.R. 3525 also contains a provision expanding the statute of limitations for prosecutions under section 247 from 5 to 7 years. Under current law, the statute of limitations under section 844(i) is 7 years, while the statute of limitations under section 247 is 5 years. This amendment corrects this anomaly.

IV. Severability

It is not necessary for Congress to include a specific severability clause in order to express Congressional intent that if any provision of the Act is held invalid, the remaining provisions are unaffected. S. 1890, as introduced on June 16, 1996 contained a severability clause, while the original version of H.R. 3525 which was introduced in the House did not. While the final version of H.R. 3525, as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives, does not contain a severability clause, it is the intent of Congress that if any provision of the Act is held invalid, the remaining provisions are unaffected.●

POSSESSIONS TAX CREDIT

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, last week on Tuesday, July 9, the Senate passed H.R. 3448, the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. I rise today to speak about the provision in that bill relating to Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Possessions Tax Credit. The Senate passed version of this legislation creates a long-term wage credit for the 150,000 employees currently working in Puerto Rico through section 936 of the code. Without question, this provision represents a major step forward for those working Americans in our poorest jurisdiction. Unfortunately, Mr. President, the House passed bill contains no such long-term incentives for the economy of Puerto Rico. I want to urge the Conferees, under the leadership of the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator ROTH, and the distinguished ranking member, Senator MOYNIHAN, to preserve the Senate position on section 936. Also, at the earliest opportunity we should address the important issues of economic growth, new jobs, and new investments in Puerto Rico including the proposals offered by the Governor of Puerto Rico, Pedro Rossello, to replace the possessions tax credit.●

CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I would like to commend the Orphans of Centralia High School of Centralia, IL,

for the amazing success of their boys basketball program. They have the best winning record of any high school basketball team in the Nation, according to the 1996 edition of the National High School Sports Record Book. Since 1907, the basketball program has been dedicated to excellence on the basketball court. In this span, the Centralia High boys team has recorded 45 regional championships, 16 district titles, 16 sectional crowns, two second-, one third- and one fourth-place finish in the State tournament. With 20 wins and 6 losses during the 1995-96 season, their record now stands at 1,780-761. This is quite an achievement.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to coach Rick Moss. In the three seasons he has been coach, he has posted a 71-12 record—a record that looks a lot like the Chicago Bulls' great success of the past season. Coach Moss and his staff have done a magnificent job in preparing his team for competition.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the Centralia High School boys basketball team for achieving this feat. I look forward to seeing them maintain this winning tradition during the 1996-97 season, which will make the 90th year of the boys basketball program.●

TRIBUTE TO CMDR. JOHN J. JASKOT, U.S. COAST GUARD

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Cmdr. John Jaskot of the U.S. Coast Guard who has served as the Coast Guard liaison to the Senate for the past 3 years and who will retire this month from the service after a distinguished 20-year career.

John, or J.J. as he is better known, has done an outstanding job in his role of Senate liaison and has honored himself and the Coast Guard with his dedication and devotion to duty. A graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and George Washington University Law School, J.J. has served commendably as the conduit between the Senate and the Coast Guard when Coast Guard-related legislation was under development and when difficult problems involving the Coast Guard were being dealt with by Members of the Senate.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure to serve as the ranking Democratic member of the subcommittee responsible for Senate oversight of the Coast Guard, the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries. It is from this position that my staff and I have had the pleasure to work on a continual basis with Commander Jaskot and the Coast Guard. Therefore, I know firsthand that J.J. is a professional who deservedly prides himself on being a responsive and efficient problem solver. His comprehensive knowledge of Coast Guard law and programs has been extremely valuable to the Senate. Coast Guard issues in general are nonpartisan and the Nation's oldest continuous maritime serv-

ice enjoys support from both sides of the aisle. During his tenure, Commander Jaskot has been successful in continuing this bipartisan collegiality.

After an exemplary career and service to our country, J.J. is now retiring. His departure will be a loss to both the Coast Guard and the Senate, but I am sure that his family will be the ones to gain as they will see much more of him than they saw in the past 3 years. I am pleased for them—and pleased for him in this respect.

As he leaves the Senate and the Coast Guard, I join everyone who has had the pleasure to work with John Jaskot during his time in the Senate in wishing him well in whatever follows his Coast Guard service. Doubtlessly, he will have opportunities to do other useful and valuable work even as he spends more time with his family.

Good luck, Cmdr. John J. Jaskot, and thank you for a job well done.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: No. 258, No. 511, No. 678, No. 637 through No. 644.

I might note, this is for the appointment of Richard Stern to the National Council on the Arts, Mr. Greenaway to the New Jersey District Court, Mr. Kahn to the New York District Court, National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board, the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the EEOC.

I further ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Richard J. Stern, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2000.

THE JUDICIARY

Joseph A. Greenaway, of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD

Marcie S. Mattleman, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board, for a term expiring October 12, 1998.

Reynaldo Flores Macias, of California, to be a Member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board for a term expiring September 22, 1998.